



Stephanie Mash
Executive Director
African American Mayors Association
1301 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Suite 550
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 670-2018

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Please see the enclosed, signed letter from the President of the African American Mayors Association, Birmingham, AL Mayor William A. Bell, Sr.

Best Regards,

Stephanie Mash



Mayor William A. Bell, Sr., President
African American Mayors Association
1301 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Suite 550
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Members of the Federal Trade Commission:

I write to you today, in my capacity as President of the African American Mayors Association, which represents over 500 African American mayors and their more than 48 million constituents nationwide. The African American Mayors Association is our country's only organization that exclusively represents African-American mayors and serves as a forum for hundreds of Black mayors to promote responsible policy, best practice sharing, and professional development for the good of our cities. We are proud to partner with exemplary corporate citizens like Comcast in our cities to expand opportunity for all of our constituents and encourage you to approve the proposed Time Warner - Comcast transaction to advance a spirit of public-private partnerships for equity across diverse communities.

In today's economy, Internet access isn't a luxury, but a civil and economic rights issue. With a home connection, kids and their families can connect to needed educational, medical, and professional opportunities. Unfortunately as of 2013, only half of Americans making less than \$30,000 a year had broadband access. By contrast, 70% of all Americans have broadband access. This gap in access is known as the "digital divide." This divide threatens to leave many Americans behind from the economic possibilities offered by a 21st century innovation economy. And far too often, African American communities are disproportionately among the poorest and most underserved. Comcast's Internet Essentials is the country's largest broadband adoption program, enrolling over 1 million low-income families in just 3 years of existence. Eligible low-income families in Comcast-served areas are connected to quality home Web access, computers, and training programs, all at affordable prices. Approving this transaction would expand this revolutionary program to black cultural centers such as New York, Los Angeles, and Dallas.

Comcast has also consistently been ranked among the top places to work for minorities and women. This is critically important as our communities look to recover from the recession and climb the economic ladder. While many companies struggle with inclusion, at Comcast people of color account for 40% of the employee population. We are even more impressed by our recent knowledge that Comcast has increased the number of minority business leaders at or above the VP level by more than 30% since this commission approved the merger with NBCUniversal three years ago. Among other benefits, this diverse array of employees helps Comcast deliver diverse, culturally specific programming. Comcast has enabled Black entrepreneurs to establish and extend cable networks like REVOLT TV and ASPIRE. These two African-American-owned channels are just a small portion of Comcast's over 160 independent cable channels.

We urge this commission to approve the transaction to build a more just future for all American citizens, companies, and civic leaders.

Sincerely,



William A. Bell, Sr.
President, African American Mayors Association
Mayor, City of Birmingham, AL